

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 024568
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:KPGARLAND:JJ

APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP

AF/E:RPOST

S/S-O : SRPVALERGA

-----095298 310200Z /65

O 310120Z JAN 78 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 024568

NODIS

VALLETTA FOR ASST. SEC'Y MOOSE ONLY; ADDIS FOR CHARGE ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ET, US

SUBJECT: AYALEW ON US/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 23797

1. SEPTTEL REPORTED ON AYALEW RESIGNATION. IN SAME CONVERSATION WITH ACTING ASST. SECRETARY HARROP, AYALEW OBSERVED HIS RESIGNATION SHOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S INITIATIVE (REFTTEL). HE REGRETTED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO DELIVER MESSAGE TO MENGISTU HIMSELF BUT NOTED HE HAD TRANSMITTED ITS CONTENTS BY CABLE AND SENT THE SIGNED TEXT BY POUCH.

2. AYALEW EXPRESSED VIEW YOU SHOULD CONTACT BERHANE DERESSA TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE.
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TIVE IN ATTEMPT TO SEE IF WE CAN EXPECT SOME RESPONSE. BERHANE MIGHT ALSO HAVE SOME SENSE OF WHAT THE REACTION WILL BE. (YOU SHOULD AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS.) AYALEW ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE CONVENIENT, ESPECIALLY TO EPMG, IF A MEETING BETWEEN SPECIAL EMISSARIES FROM BOTH COUNTRIES COULD BE ARRANGED OUTSIDE ETHIOPIA, PERHAPS IN NAIROBI. AYALEW NOTED THAT WHENEVER AND

WHEREVER MEETING MIGHT BE HELD, ONE MUST ASSUME THAT THOSE FIGURES IN DIRG WHOSE CAREERS ARE IDENTIFIED WITH

CLOSE TIES TO USSR WOULD SEE THIS INITIATIVE AS THREAT TO THEIR POSITION AND WILL WORK TO SABOTAGE IT IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE.

3. HARROP DISCUSSED FRANKLY PROBLEM OF SPARE PARTS AND SWIFTSHIPS. AYALEW STATED HIS BELIEF THAT ROHNER GEHRIG WILL HAVE ALL BUT THE SWIFTSHIPS READY TO SHIP WITHIN FOUR OR FIVE WEEKS. THERE ARE STILL SOME UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS ABOUT SWIFTSHIPS BUT THEY WILL NOT HINDER SHIPMENT SPARE PARTS. IF COMING CUTOFF WERE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF EPMG NOW, AYALEW OPINED, IT WOULD HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE. WHENEVER EPMG IS ADVISED, MOVE COULD LEAD TO BREAK IN RELATIONS, AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED. HE REMARKED THAT HE HAD REPORTED TO ADDIS HIS FEELING THAT THE ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING IN OGADEN COUPLED WITH REPEATED PUBLIC U.S. STATEMENTS OF INTENTION NOT SEND ARMS TO EITHER SIDE IN CONFLICT HAS ALWAYS MADE HIM DOUBT THAT SHIPMENTS WOULD BE PERMITTED. HE HAD URGED ADDIS TO CONTACT HIM BEFORE PAYING FINAL DEPOSIT BUT MONEY WAS SENT INSTEAD DIRECTLY TO FREIGHT FORWARDER.

4. IN DISCUSSING SITUATION IN ADDIS, AYALEW NOTED THAT
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SOVIET AND CUBAN ADVISERS CONSIDER THREE KEY MINISTRIES TO BE DEFENSE, SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THEY HAVE CONTROL OF FIRST TWO THROUGH PRO-SOVIET ETHIOPIANS AND ARE NOW ZEROING IN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AYALEW EXPECTS MODERATES LIKE PERMSEC DAWIT TO LOSE THEIR JOBS SOON AND BE REPLACED BY PRO-SOVIET, PRO-CUBAN OFFICIALS.

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:SVALERGA

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:SVALERGA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 024568

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FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOL STATE 024568 SENT ACTION ADDIS ABABA INFO VALLETTA

JAN 31, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 024568

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REF: STATE 23797

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: DISPUTES, SPARE PARTS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: KPGARLAND:JJ
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: AYALEW ON US/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS
TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, MASS, ET, US, UR
To: ADDIS ABABA VALLETTA
Type: TE
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